

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



*[The Editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this Department.]*

DEAR EDITOR: This question has frequently occurred to me, Why do resident doctors in a large number of hospitals have superior rooms, table service, etc., to that of the nurses? I have in mind a hospital where a number of graduate nurses are employed—all taking a post-graduate course with one exception—where the nurse furnished her own room. The rooms were unfit for wards. The paint was worn off the floor, leaving an uneven, splintery surface adorned with squares of dirty, ragged carpet, one bureau, one small wardrobe, one small rocker, one straight chair, and two beds constituting the furniture—not even a table for writing-material, books, and work-basket. In size it was a single room, and at one time three nurses were occupying this room—two night nurses and one day nurse. The nurses' dining-table was destitute of flowers, ferns—in fact, everything that would indicate refinement. The china was heavy, the waitress slack and untidy. In this same institution the dining-room used by the doctors was nicely furnished, the waitress trim and neat, the china dainty, and the table never without flowers or a dish of ferns. The doctors' sleeping-rooms were large, airy, and attractively furnished—one doctor occupying a *whole* room. And yet a large number of nurses are superior socially to the doctors, many of them being well-bred, refined ladies, who would appreciate clean, dainty surroundings. As a rule, ladies are more appreciative of refined surroundings than gentlemen. If such is the case, why are they showered so plentifully among doctors, and painfully conspicuous by their absence among nurses? If nurses refused to herd together and demanded at least comfortable, individual sleeping-rooms, equal to those occupied by the doctors, possibly, in time, the dining-room would adjust itself. How can a nurse be neat and tidy in her appearance if she has no room for her toilet articles, not even a place for her work-basket?

Nurses are supposed to understand and appreciate sanitary laws. How can they be conscientious in this line in ward work when they are compelled habitually to daily violate all sanitary laws in their individual lives?

E. L. FOELKER.

DEAR EDITOR: In the October JOURNAL OF NURSING an article was contributed on "Infant-Feeding," also "High Irrigation."

It seems to me a very faulty method to insert the tube and then fill the funnel with the desired solution. What becomes of the air in the tube? What is the temperature of the solution which first passes through the tube? It would hardly seem necessary to suggest to anyone who has had even a limited amount of experience that an irrigation jar or an ordinary fountain syringe is far superior to the funnel. The correct temperature of the solution is maintained throughout the irrigation, which is impossible in pouring to the pitcher, from the pitcher to the graduate glass, from the graduate glass to the funnel. The solution is sterile no longer, the temperature is 100° F. no longer. The baby's

intestines are filled with air, then cold solution, then tepid. If the solution is permitted to pass through the tube until it runs hot, then pinched off about four inches from the end, then insert the tube, the irrigation will be given aseptically and the correct temperature of the solution maintained throughout the irrigation, which is absolutely necessary in rectal irrigation. A hot irrigation is stimulating, a warm one depressing, and generally a stimulating effect is desired when an irrigation is ordered.

E. L. FOELKER.

---

DEAR EDITOR: The recent death of Mr. Thomas B. Reed, so many years distinguished as a parliamentarian, may make it possible to relate with propriety his exceeding kindness and courtesy to nurses some months ago.

The details of organization of the New York State Nurses' Association were in question and had created some little controversy. The question of classification of membership especially was debated, and the advisability of allowing membership by clubs and also by individuals. Several other points were under discussion, as will be remembered by referring to the nursing journals. Mr. Reed was personally consulted by one of the members, and though engaged at the time in his heavy law business, he gave his individual attention, in the kindest way, to the points at issue, considered every one, and passed judgment on each. With the kindness so deep in his nature, he concluded his advice by giving to her as a present his own manual on parliamentary procedure. The members of the State Association may rest easy with the knowledge that in all its main features the constitution with the by-laws has been subjected to the scrutiny and judgment of the greatest chairman the House of Representatives has ever had.

A MEMBER N. Y. S. N. A.

---

[LETTERS to the Editor must be accompanied by the name in full and address of the writer, otherwise such communication cannot be recognized. The name need not appear in the JOURNAL unless so desired.—ED.]

